



DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

DAVID MORROW, ADMINISTRATOR

PURPOSE:

The Division of State Parks acquire, protect, develop, and interpret a well-balanced system of areas with outstanding scenic, recreational, scientific, and historical importance for the inspiration, use, and enjoyment of Nevada's citizens and visitors, and that such areas shall be held in trust as irreplaceable portions of Nevada's natural and historical heritage.



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

The division is comprised of four sections: Administration, Accounting and Personnel, Operations and Maintenance, and Planning and Development. The Administration Section helps provide overall direction and leadership to the entire organization, sets goals, establishes policies, monitors budgets and contracts, and assures the division meets its performance indicators. The Accounting and Personnel Section provide services to the field staff in accounting and personnel issues. The Operations and Maintenance Section provide the field services to manage and maintain 24 parks in the following four regions: Carson/Tahoe, Fallon/Elko, Panaca, and Las Vegas. The Planning and Development Section provide acquisition, design, construction management, and technical support services for the state park system. Staff also provides technical assistance to field personnel, administer grants to other government entities, and review activities that effect the state park system.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:	NRS 232.135, 384, and 407
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:	105 FTE and 138 Seasonal / 2004
TELEPHONE:	775.687.4384
WEB SITE ADDRESS:	www.parks.nv.gov



Dangberg Home Ranch.

Winter 2002

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Continue to manage, protect, operate, and maintain existing and future units of the state park system.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Started construction of the Old Mormon Fort Visitor Center with an anticipated completion date to coincide with the Sesquicentennial Celebration of the fort establishment by Mormon Pioneers (June 14-18, 2005).



Old Mormon Fort Visitor Center construction.

May 2003

- ❏ Implemented a new fee schedule to increase park fee collections by approximately \$225,000. Changed the schedule to allow the sale of park and senior permits based on a twelve-month period following the month of purchase.
- ❏ Hired three new positions to assist with the increased project planning and development workload created by Q-1.
- ❏ The Land and Water Conservation Fund, Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21), Transportation Enhancements, Bureau of Reclamation Title 28, NDF Urban Forestry, Federal Recreation Trails, and Wildlife Boating Access grants continue to contribute to state and local recreation. The division received over two million dollars from these programs and passed one million dollars to political subdivisions.

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Acquire a well-balanced system of areas of outstanding scenic, recreational, scientific, and historical importance.



Dangberg Home Ranch House.

February 2004



Dangberg Ranch Barn.

May 2003

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❏ Successfully resolved litigation regarding the acquisition of the Dangberg Ranch and many of the historical contents. Initiated discussions with Douglas County regarding the restoration and preservation of the ranch house and out buildings. Arranged for the Carson Valley Historical Society to catalog and archive several hundred historic photographs.
- ❏ Acquired 275 acres of land at Rye Patch Reservoir from the Nevada Land and Resource Company.

Van Sickle Bi-State Park Barn.

August 2002



- Conducted planning workshops and continued to work on a master plan for the Van Sickle Bi-State Park.
- Completed the acquisition of 1.2 acres of land adjacent to Mormon Station State Park.
- Initiated discussion with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) regarding a possible management agreement whereby the division would administer several camping areas adjacent to Cave Lake State Park to minimize problems associated with misuse of the lands.



Cave Lake.

July 2003

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Continue to manage and interpret the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the state park system.



Ward Charcoal Ovens
State Historic Park.

These ovens are located just south of Ely Nevada. These beehive-shaped ovens were used in the late 19th century to generate charcoal for use in the mines of nearby Ward.

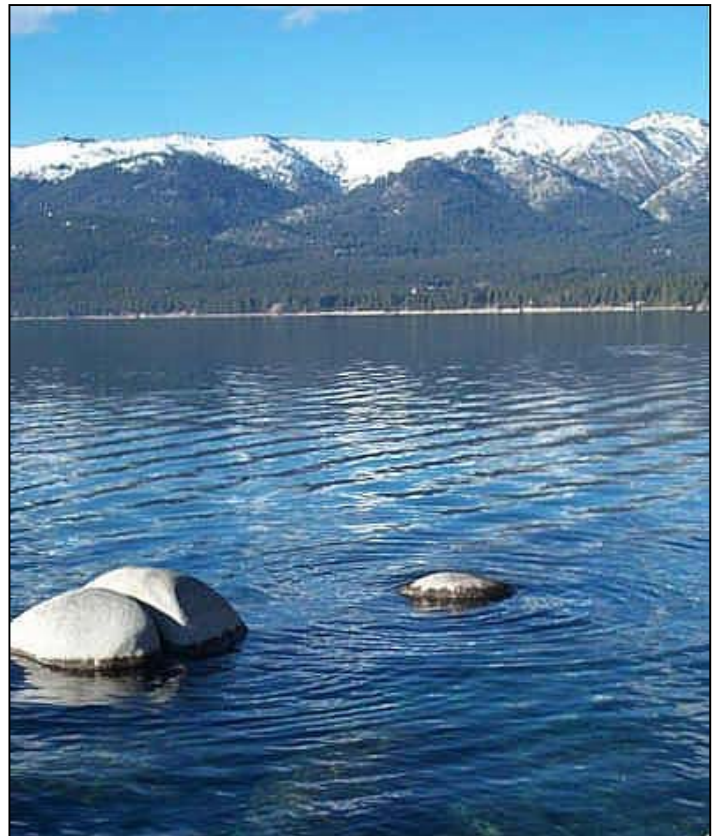
ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Worked closely with Nevada State Parks Cooperative Association, a non-profit foundation established to provide enhanced support for interpretive and educational programs.
- Continued to provide park visitors with interesting information about unique natural and cultural features at many state park sites through expanding the use of docents.
- Continued to work with the Nevada Tahoe Resource Team to improve management practices in the backcountry of Nevada State Park, Lake Tahoe. This included additional recreational trail opportunities, improved forest health, and protection of endangered species.

Nevada State Park, Lake Tahoe.

Memorial Point during high water.

Spring 2003



GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Maintain a high level of customer service and adopt management practices that recognize individual park differences and assign decision-making authority appropriately. Continue to assess and improve the state park law enforcement public safety program to provide a safe visitor experience.



Nevada State Park, Lake Tahoe.

Annual Shakespeare Festival at Sand Harbor.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ Increased the number of sales outlets to provide better customer service and increased the sales and distribution of park passes.
- ❑ Continued to support the division's law enforcement specialist in developing better training and education programs.
- ❑ Continued park surveys and analysis of the results.

KEY LONG-TERM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- ❑ Attempt to maintain visitor to staff ratios consistent to meet visitor needs and expectations.
- ❑ Prioritize revenue generation and marketing in an effort to offset the cost of operating parks and programs.
- ❑ Analyze potential park acquisitions to ensure there is a clear benefit to the state or local community, and that appropriate measures are taken to reduce or eliminate the impact to the state general fund.
- ❑ Continue to explore additional revenue sources including the addition of park cabins, agency operated sales outlets, grants, and partnerships.
- ❑ Periodically review and revise park user fees, special use and other fees, and evaluate other potential funding sources. Evaluate the cost of subsidized use of state parks by senior citizens.
- ❑ Improve resource management throughout the state park system. Plans exist to upgrade the basic inventory of natural resources, identify major natural resource issues, and reduce or eliminate noxious weeds. Work towards partnerships with the divisions of Forestry and State Lands to create an environmental improvement program similar to the one that was established at Lake Tahoe.
- ❑ Continue to work to establish sustainable development criteria in all state parks and add sustainable development levels to park master plans.
- ❑ Develop a prioritized list of park acquisitions.

- ❏ Develop a measurable list of criteria that can be utilized to prioritize potential additions.
- ❏ Develop interpretive plans for each state park and increase integration of interpretive services within its normal operations and management. Continue to expand efforts to hire interpretive professionals and to provide more education and training to all division personnel.
- ❏ Develop an applicant recruitment and employee retention program to address a decline in filling and retaining park ranger, maintenance, and interpretive positions.
- ❏ Develop a cultural resource management program to better care for historic sites and cultural artifacts. Establish guidelines for cataloging collections, standards for proper storage, and guidelines for all historic stabilization and improvement projects.

Dangberg Ranch artifacts.



SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE OR EXECUTIVE ACTIONS AFFECTING THE AGENCY:

- ❏ Revisions were made to the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), which revised the fee schedule effective January 1, 2004.
- ❏ Revisions were made to the NAC, which allowed for the division administrator to approve off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in selected state parks.
- ❏ SB144 and AB287 of the 2003 Legislative Session provided for the transfer of Floyd Lamb State Park to the City of Las Vegas.